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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted  
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Name: Sheryl L. Hutchings

Signature: Sheryl L. Hutchings

**RESPONSE PURSUANT TO**  
**37 CFR §1.116**  
**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**  
**GROUP ART UNIT 3771**

Our Case No.: 10703/042 (PA-5375-RFB)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Darin G. Schaeffer, et al.

Serial No.: 10/769,962

Filing Date: February 2, 2004

For: TRACHEOSTOMY TUBE AND  
LOADING DILATOR

Examiner: Matter, Kristen Clarette

Group Art Unit No.: 3771

Confirmation No.: 9118

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the final Office Action mailed June 9, 2009.

**A Listing of Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 6 of this paper, and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing drawing changes.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 15 of this paper.